

2015 4TH OF JULY CRUISE
a/k/a The Oh Say Can You See Any Wind Meander on the Choptank

To All Cruising Sailors of St. Michaels,

The following is the Cruise Report for the 2015 4th of July Cruise. Thanks go to Vice Commodore Vargish for taking the pictures included in this report, and apologies to him from me for not getting any really good ones of *Jasmine*.

Thursday, July 2. Destination – Dun Cove, Choptank. The first day did not look promising at all, with steady light rain as we were getting underway. The forecast was for light East winds, and the combination of light winds and occasional rain made it a motoring day. *Whisper* arrived about 1415 and established the anchorage in the North branch of Dun Cove. *Voyager* and *Jasmine* arrived late in the afternoon and anchored nearby. Luckily, the morning rains did not continue and it was pleasant, if a bit misty. Cocktails and conversation on *Whisper*, with Capt. Sokso providing his usual excellent taxi service.



Friday, July 3. Destination – Plaindealing Creek, Tred Avon. After a pleasant, rainless night and a leisurely breakfast, we got underway about 1000. Once we got into the Choptank, *Voyager* may a valiant attempt to sail while *Whisper* and *Jasmine* were content to motor. At least the temperatures were moderate, with a high in the low 80s. Once we got to Plaindealing Creek *Whisper* anchored in the mouth of the Creek with a clear view of where the fireworks would be and *Jasmine* rafted up. *Voyager* anchored nearby. *Tryst* arrived later and joined the raft and *Esprit*, with Captain Chip, Crew Paula and four guests (including Chip's sister Elizabeth) completed the fleet. Everyone gathered on *Jasmine/Whisper/Tryst* for cocktails, again courtesy of *Voyager's* dinghy. Cocktail hour ended as some of the *Esprit* entourage decided to swim back to their boat when they realized there was no Pinot Grigio left on the raft, and a look at the radar and what seemed to be approaching rain led to a decision to break up the raft. Of course, the rain never arrived!

The fireworks went off without a hitch despite threatening weather and we had a great view.

Saturday, July 4. Destination – La Trappe Creek. Another day with very moderate temperatures for July, but not much breeze. But some early morning excitement! About 0600 I heard some splashing nearby and then a call “Ahoy!” COMING FROM MY TRANSOM. I emerged to see a somewhat scruffy looking, bleary eyed fellow standing on *Whisper’s* boarding ladder. “Can you tell me how to get to . . . I forget the name of the creek.” Beside the boat was a canoe with a somewhat more coherent occupant who apologized for the disturbance as his friend fell backwards into our dinghy. With some difficulty he managed to get from the dinghy to the canoe and they paddled away. As they passed *Esprit*, where one of Chip’s friends was in the cockpit, they remembered where they were trying to get and asked directions to Oxford.

Esprit left first, headed to Oxford for breakfast. The fleet departed after a captains’ call at 0900. There had been some discussion of going to Cambridge for that night’s fireworks, but we ended up deciding on La Trappe Creek. NOAA was forecasting NE at 10-15, with gusts to 20. Maybe somewhere, but not on the Choptank. Reality was zero from nowhere, so we motored again, arriving around 1030. The anchorage was just off the Compton mansion just under a mile up the creek. *Jasmine*, *Tryst* and *Esprit* rafted up and *Whisper* and *Voyager* anchored out.



Cocktails were on board the raft. The rain finally arrived about 1800, ending shortly after the crews of *Tryst*, *Voyager* and *Jasmine* arrived on *Whisper* (in *Voyager’s* dinghy, of course) for a stir fry dinner. Everyone went back to their boats about 2100, just before the Cambridge fireworks commenced. We actually had a pretty good view of them over the trees.

Sunday, July 5. Destination – Leadenham Creek. Another day forecast to have nice temperatures (mid 80s) but not much wind. *Voyager* and *Esprit*, departed for their home ports. The rest of the fleet got under way about 0930. *Whisper* motored the entire way, but *Tryst* and

Jasmine got some sailing in, the latter with a slick Code Zero on a furler that mounts on a carbon fiber sprit. Very nice! *Whisper* anchored off the South shore across from Baby Owl Cove and the others rafted up. We all spent a relaxing afternoon, although when I decided to make a trash run to my house I had to borrow Thom and his dinghy engine as mine would not start.



We broke up the raft after cocktails as a look at the radar showed a line of storms headed our way. Once again, they fell apart before getting to us. About 2100 we were rewarded with a third night of fireworks, as the postponed St. Michaels fireworks were visible over the trees.

Sunday, September 29. Destination – Home Ports. All good things must come to an end. On another day with not much wind, *Whisper* motored home.

Speaking only for the crew of *Whisper*, we had a lot of fun on the cruise and hope that the other members on the cruise enjoyed themselves.

Participating Boats:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nights</u>
Whisper	4
Jasmine	4
Tryst	3
Voyager	3

Esprit 2

Respectfully submitted

Larry Rovin

Carolyn Rugg

Cruise Captains